

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01

FBOE-00 A-01 /020 W

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R 110925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174

UNCLAS JIDDA 3302

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ABUD, BEXP

SUBJ: EXPANSION OF JIDDA COMMERCIAL CENTER

REF : (A) JIDDA A-91 NOVEMBER 17, 1974

(B) JIDDA A-21 MARCH 27, 1975

1. REF MESSAGE ADDRESSED NEED TO ENLARGE AND EXPAND OPERATIONS AND PHYSICAL PLANT OF COMMERCIAL CENTER IN DOWNTOWN JIDDA. BOTH MESSAGES BUDGETED \$35,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSOTION (STATE 96958) AND NEARLY FULL-TIME EFFORTS OF ECON/COMM OFFICER PEACOCK (20-101) ON COMMERCIAL RELATED MATTERS, TIME HAS ARRIVED WHEN THE PRESENT SPACE OF THE COMMERCIAL CENTER IS INADEQUATE. COMMERCIAL OFFICER MURPHY (20-099) AND PEACOCK MUST NOW SHARE MINISCULE OFFICE AT CENTER. FIVE LOCAL STAFF ALSO THERE FULL-TIME. IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS AT CENTER THROUGHOUT DAY, AND WE SHALL PLAN TO DO THIS WHEN THE NEW OFFICER ARRIVES.

3. EMBASSY HAS LOCATED SPACE IN OFFICE BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION THAT SHOULD BE IDEAL FOR A COMMERCIAL LIBRARY (GROUND FLOOR SPACE) AND THREE OFFICES PLUS RECEPTION ROOM DIRECTLY ABOVE ON FIRST FLOOR. BUILDING IS LOCATED ABOUT ONE BLOCK FROM PRESENT CENTER IN DOWNTOWN

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JIDDA IN CHOICE AREA NEAR HOTELS FREQUENTED BY VISITING

U.S. BUSINESSMEN.

4. BUILDING SHOULD BE READY FOR OCCUPACY IN ABOUT ONE YEAR (OWNER SAYS TEN MONTHS) WHICH WILL NEARLY COINCIDE WITH END OF CURRENT RENTAL PAYMENT ON PRESENT CENTER ON JUNE 30, 1976.

5. WE EXPECT THAT RENTAL ON THIS NEW SPACE, WHICH IS ABOUT TWICE THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF PRESENT SPACE, WILL BE APPROXIMATELY DOUBLE THE CURRENT RENTAL WE ARE PAYING AT SR 20,000 ANNUALLY.

6. IN VIEW THIS OPPORTUNITY, EMBASSY HAS GIVEN OWNER LETTER OF INTENT TO LEASE THIS SPACE NEXT YEAR, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS BY WASHINGTON.

7. DEPARTMENT AND USDOC ARE REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL, AND CONFIRM THAT FULLEST SUPPORT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COMMERCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROVIDED EMBASSY IN THE AMOUNT CITED PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE.

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